

to the current fiscal state of the highway trust fund and because of the current formula's disparate treatment between the States.

In addition, we desperately need to create stability in our aviation infrastructure programs by passing a full fiscal year 2009 FAA extension, along with completing a multiyear FAA Authorization bill. I have encouraged Representative LaHood to support a full fiscal year extension of the current FAA Reauthorization bill, through September 30, 2009, along with committing to work with him on a new FAA Authorization bill.

Without congressional and administration cooperation, the FAA's plan to modernize our air traffic control system—known as NextGen—could squander precious time and resources. Our Nation's skies and airports are severely congested; we need a Secretary in place immediately to oversee and manage the funding, implementation, and transition to NextGen.

I am also confident the DOT will have a renewed focus and appreciation for our Nation's Amtrak and high speed rail system. This is an area we have neglected too long. While the Amtrak reauthorization that was just signed into law was an important step, we need strong leadership at the Department to ensure that we have a national passenger rail system that works. Congressman LaHood is a strong advocate for Amtrak and I look forward to working with him to implement the priorities of that important legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to support Representative Hood's nomination.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, one of the nominations just confirmed was that of Ray LaHood, former Congressman from the State of Illinois who, by this action, will become our next Secretary of Transportation in the Obama Cabinet. It was my great honor to introduce Congressman LaHood to the Senate Commerce Committee yesterday, along with former House Republican Leader Bob Michel. I had asked President Obama to consider this nomination because of my high regard for Ray LaHood, both personally and politically.

We served together for many years. He has represented my hometown of Springfield. Despite our clear partisan differences, we have become not only fast friends but real allies. Ray LaHood is an extraordinary person. Born and raised in Peoria, IL, he served as a schoolteacher before coming to work for Bob Michel in Washington, where he served as his chief of staff. He then succeeded Bob Michel as a Congressman from the district which had Peoria as its major city and proceeded to represent large portions of north central Illinois and most of the former congressional district of former Congressman Abraham Lincoln.

Ray LaHood is a person whom I not only respect but like very much. His word is good. He is a hard worker. He

has the right values and politics. When politics in Washington became so corrosive and divisive, Ray LaHood led an effort in the House to establish dialogue between Democrats and Republicans. When I have worked with him on issues such as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, the future of the 183rd Air National Guard unit in Springfield's capital airport, and a variety of other issues, I have found him to be hardworking, diligent, and committed to the public good.

I believe President Obama has made an extraordinarily good choice for Secretary of Transportation. It is a department which will be very busy because the new Recovery and Reinvestment Act understands that we need new bridges, roads, airports, and mass transit so that America's economy can get back on track and grow. Ray LaHood is a great person to be heading up that department.

His wife Kathy and family were with him yesterday before the Commerce Committee. They are a great group. He is very proud of his children and should be. They have done extraordinarily good things in their lives as well. I am glad we moved quickly on this nomination for Ray LaHood as Secretary of Transportation. I know he is probably following this proceeding, and I wish him the very best. I know he is going to be exceptional in his service not only to President Obama in the Cabinet but also to the United States of America.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. RES. 18

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to S. Res. 18, the following be the order of listing:

Rules: names will be listed as: SCHUMER, DODD, BYRD, INOUE, FEINSTEIN, DURBIN, NELSON of Nebraska, MURRAY, PRYOR, UDALL of New Mexico, WARNER;

Small Business: the last two names appear SHAHEEN and HAGAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senator as a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe during the 111th Congress: the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe during the 111th Congress: the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the provisions of 20 U.S.C., sections 42 and 43, appoints

the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. COCHRAN, as a member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the 111th Congress.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 2 p.m. Monday, January 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business until 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 4 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, under the previous order, at 6 p.m. Monday the Senate will proceed to a rollcall vote on the confirmation of the executive nomination of Timothy Geithner to be Secretary of the Treasury.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 26, 2009, at 2 p.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

RAY LAHOOD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

SHAUN L. S. DONOVAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.
MARY L. SCHAPIRO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2014.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, January 22, 2009:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUSAN E. RICE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE